Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention is based, in part, on construction of human liver hepatoma cells, HepG2, cotransfected with (i) a human ER expression vector, (ii) a ~~CAAT enhancer~~ CCAAT/enhancer-binding protein (C/EBPα) expression vector, and (iii) a luciferase reporter vector in which luciferase reporter gene expression is controlled by the human HL promoter region (-1557/+43). Alternatively, (i) human ER, (ii) ~~aC/EBPα~~ a C/EBPα expression vector, and (iii) a luciferase reporter vector in which luciferase reporter gene expression is controlled by the human HL promoter region are present in one vector. This vector then may be used to transform the cell.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

C/EBPα is a liver-enriched transcription factor which belongs to a family of receptors called ~~CAAT enhancer~~ CCAAT/enhancer-binding proteins, which includes C/EBPα, C/EBPβ, C/EBPγ, C/EBPδ, and C/EBPε. It induces a more differentiated phenotype in the HepG2 cells and activation of HL promoter activity by any one of these family members is also regulated by binding of an appropriate ligand to estrogen receptor.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A "C/EBP transcription factor" is a liver-enriched transcription factor which belongs to a family of receptors (C/EBPα, C/EBPβ, C/EBPγ, C/EBPδ, C/EBPε). In a specific embodiment, the transcription factor is C/EBPα. ~~CAAT~~ CCAAT/enhancer-binding protein (C/EBP) is a transcription factor expressed primarily in liver, fat and intestinal tissues that belongs to the basic region-leucine zipper class (Birkenmeier et al. Genes & Dev. 3:1146, 1989; Landschulz et al. Science 243:1681, 1988). Overexpression of C/EBP in cotransfection assays stimulates transcription through C/EBP binding sites found in promoters of target genes and suggests that it is involved in cell type-specific expression of genes in liver, fat and possibly additional tissues.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Resuspended cells were supplemented with 50 μg of hepatic lipase promoter plasmid (-1557 to +43), subcloned into the luciferase pGL2 reporter vector (Promega); 25 μg human estrogen receptor, which was subcloned into a pCDNA3 vector (Invitrogen); 25 μg ~~CAAT enhancer~~ CCAAT/enhancer-binding protein (C/EBPα) expression vector, and 20 μg β-galactosidase reporter plasmid (pCH110, Pharmacia). The mixture was transferred to a 0.2 mL BTX disposable ~~cuvetter~~ cuvette (P/N 620). Cells were electroporated using a BTX ECM 600 (San Diego, CA), at 100 V, 1700 VF and 72 Ω. Cells were left at room temperature for about 20 minutes. Approximately 20.5 mL of growth cell culture media was added to the

cells. Cells were then seeded at about 200 μL per well of a 96 well plate. Cells were then incubated at about 37°C for 4 hours.